

9. (Three Times Amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

- a first substrate and a second substrate;
- at least one transparent protective layer formed on an outer surface of at least one of the first substrate and the second substrate, wherein the protective layer has a configuration which imparts a compressive stress to the outer surface of at least one of the first substrate and second substrate;
- a transparent electrode formed on an inner surface of the first substrate or the second substrate;
- an alignment layer formed on the transparent electrode; and
- a liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate.